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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/926,763	05/20/2002	Dianne Beverley Croteau	10748-006	3008
1059	7590	02/22/2006	EXAMINER	
BERESKIN AND PARR 40 KING STREET WEST BOX 401 TORONTO, ON M5H 3Y2 CANADA			NELSON JR, MILTON	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3636	

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/926,763	Applicant(s) CROTEAU ET AL.	
	Examiner Milton Nelson, Jr.	Art Unit 3636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-16, 18, 19, 21-26, 39-41 and 43-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-16, 18, 19, 21-26, 39-41, 43-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 1, 2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 14-16, 18, 19, and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu (5575534) in view of Maier (4951334).

The primary reference shows all claimed features of the instant invention with the exception of the front-to-back extent of the second support surface being approximately equal to the front-to-back extent of the first support surface. Note Figure 13 of Yu. In

Art Unit: 3636

Yu, note the first support surface (211), second support surface (212), angle ranging from about 10 degrees to about 30 degrees (see column 9, lines 12-13), and common edge (see Figure 13) that is "about" 12 cm radius. Also note that the seat pan is disclosed as having a length (front-to-back extent) ranging between 35 and 45 cm (see paragraph 2 of column 7), and the pelvic support (first support surface) has a length (front-to-back extent) between 15 and 30 cm or preferably 20 and 25 cm (see paragraph 5 of column 8). As such, the second support surface has a front-to-back extent provided in lengths from "about" 12.4 cm to "about" 21 cm. Additionally, note that the distance between the seat pan and the bottom of the support leg ranges between 40 and 60 cm (see paragraph 6 of column 7). This represents a height of "about" 35 cm to "about" 65 cm.

The secondary reference teaches configuring a seating assembly with a front-to-back extent of a second support surface (32) being approximately equal to the front-to-back extent of the first support surface (16). Note Figures 2 and 3. Also note the last paragraph in column 4.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the instant invention to modify the primary reference in view of the teachings of the secondary reference by configuring the front-to-back extent of the second support surface as approximately equal to the front-to-back extent of the first support surface in order to enhance user support and comfort.

Claims 39-41 and 43-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu (5575534) in view of Maier (4951334).

The primary reference shows all claimed features of the instant invention with the exception of the front-to-back extent of the second support surface being approximately equal to the front-to-back extent of the first support surface. Note Figure 13 of Yu. In Yu, note the frame (400), first support surface (211), second support surface (212), and common edge (see Figure 13). Also note that the seat pan is disclosed as having a length (front-to-back extent) ranging between 35 and 45 cm (see paragraph 2 of column 7), and the pelvic support (first support surface) has a length (front-to-back extent) between 15 and 30 cm or preferably 20 and 25 cm (see paragraph 5 of column 8). As such, the second support surface has a front-to-back extent provided in lengths from "about" 12.4 cm to "about" 21 cm.

The secondary reference teaches configuring a seating assembly with a front-to-back extent of a second support surface (32) being approximately equal to the front-to-back extent of the first support surface (16). Note Figures 2 and 3. Also note the last paragraph in column 4.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the instant invention to modify the primary reference in view of the teachings of the secondary reference by configuring the front-to-back extent of the second support

Art Unit: 3636

surface as approximately equal to the front-to-back extent of the first support surface in order to enhance user support and comfort.

Claims 26/14 and 26/16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu (5575534) in view of Maier (4951334), as applied to claims 14-16 above, and further in view of Congleton (4552404).

The primary reference, as modified above, shows all claimed features of the instant invention with the exception of the pommel extending upwardly from at least one of the support surfaces. Note the discussion of Yu, above.

The secondary reference conventionally teaches configuring a seating assembly with a pommel (34) extending upwardly from at least one support surface of the assembly.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of the instant invention to modify the primary reference in view of the teachings of the secondary reference by adding a pommel extending upwardly from at least one support surface of the assembly. Such conventionally provides a means for enhancing user restraint and support.

Response to Arguments/Amendment

Art Unit: 3636

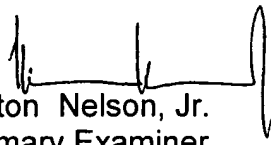
Applicant's response has been fully considered. Remaining issues are described in the above sections.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Milton Nelson, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-6861. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday, and alternate Fridays 5:30-3:00.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Milton Nelson, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3636

mn
February 21, 2006